



City Administrator's Report

January 2009

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings

City Council Meetings

Tuesday, January 13th and 27th. City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m.

Community Events

Annual Rose Pruning

Saturday, January 10th starting at 9 a.m. A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden. In case of rain, event will be postponed to January 17th.

D.A.R.E. Graduation

Wednesday, January 14th, Arlington Theatre, 1317 State Street, 9:30 a.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Monday, January 19th. City offices closed.

Flags on State Street

GaySantaBarbara.org

January 5th to 12th

Planned Parenthood

January 12th to 22nd

Santa Barbara International Film Festival

January 22nd to February 2nd

City Administrator

Estimated Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Shortfall Presented to Council. On January 8, 2009, the City Council held a work session to receive an update on the City's projected financial condition in Fiscal Year 2010. Staff provided a 15-year history of the City's revenues and expenditures and a detailed overview of year-to-date tax revenues. Overall, declining revenues and increased costs will result in an estimated \$9 million funding shortfall in the Fiscal Year

2010 General Fund budget, approximately 8% of the City's General Fund. Staff is proposing to balance the budget with a combination of the following measures: 1) department budget adjustments, 2) citywide labor measures such as a mandatory furlough, 3) structural budget changes, and 4) delays to capital improvements.

City departments are currently preparing their proposed budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. City Administrator Jim Armstrong is also meeting with City employees to discuss the City's financial condition and how it may impact them. The City's Fiscal Year 2010 Recommended Budget is tentatively scheduled for presentation to Council on April 21, 2009, marking the beginning of Council and public review. Budget review meetings will be held with the City Council through June, culminating in the Council's adoption of the budget by June 30th.

Inside Santa Barbara. *Inside Santa Barbara* is City TV Channel 18's award-winning news magazine show. In this month's episode, viewers learn about residential rebuilding after the Tea Fire, the Mental Health Association's *Building Hope*, an update on the City's budget situation, our continued series about City Advisory Groups, and the Grand Opening of Bohnett Park. *Inside Santa Barbara* airs Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., and Sundays at 10 p.m. You can also watch *Inside Santa Barbara* on-line by visiting the City's web site at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Administrative Services

Boards and Commissions Recruitments Now Available on City's E-Subscription List. Currently, there are various e-subscriptions available on the City's website, such as the City Council agenda packets and the City Administrator's Monthly Report. City Advisory Group recruitments will be added to this e-subscription list. Once subscribed to this notification, you will receive notice of new vacancies. Subscribers will also be notified of all recruitments to fill vacancies on boards, commissions and committees that are either advisory to the Council, or to which the Council appoints a representative from the City. To sign up, visit the City's web site at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov and click in the appropriate box to select the subscription(s) of your choice. For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 564-5309.

Airport

Passenger Count Decrease in November. More than 60,000 passengers arrived and departed at the Airport in November – an 11.7% drop over the same month last year. The decrease in passengers was due to the loss of Express Jet service as well as a slower air travel holiday during Thanksgiving week. The highest capacity flights were aboard United to Denver (88.2%) and American Eagle to Dallas/Ft. Worth (82.9%). Overall the passenger count is up 1.3% for the first 11 months over 2007.

Keen Observation By Airport Staff Member Reunites Families. The Ventura County Sheriff's Department was seeking the public's assistance in locating two teenagers who were missing from their boarding school in Ojai on December 5th. On the morning of December 9th, Stanley Macias, Airport Painter, observed two juveniles that matched the description of teens, walking on South Fairview Avenue. Airport Patrol Sergeant Rene Smit located the juveniles who

admitted that they had run away from Thatcher School. An extensive air and ground search had been underway involving Sheriff's helicopters, Urban Search and Rescue, and bloodhounds. Thanks to Stanley Macias' observation and quick thinking, and Sergeant Smit's swift action, both juveniles were soon reunited with their parents who live out of state.

Community Development Department

Planning Commission Update. In January, the Planning Commission will meet on January 8th, 22nd and 29th. Some of the items include:

On January 8th, the Commission will consider an extension of the downtown Farmer's Market Conditional Use Permit, a rezone of a portion of the airport property that was inadvertently rezoned previously, a Tentative Subdivision Map for a mixed use project at 3885 and 3887 State Street, and will hold a public hearing on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the El Encanto Hotel (1900 Lasuen Road).

On January 22nd, the Commission will hold a concept review hearing for a proposed "Life Center" at the Samarkand Retirement Facility (2550 Treasure Drive), and will comment on the Public Works Streets Capital Improvement Program, for Fiscal Year 2010.

On January 29th, the Commission will hold a special meeting to determine the scope of the Environmental Impact Report for the Plan Santa Barbara General Plan update effort.

Finance Department

November Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Down 11.6%. This is the third consecutive monthly decline, following declines in September and October of 1.8% and 2.4%, respectively. After five months of the fiscal year, year-to-date growth is 0.7%. An annual growth rate of 3.1% is needed to meet the TOT budget and 2.6% is needed to meet the revised preliminary year-end estimate.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year	FY 2009	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%	\$ 1,631,965	1.2%
Aug	1,504,589	10.8%	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%	1,820,811	10.6%
Sept	1,109,428	19.1%	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,695	1.9%	1,196,294	-1.8%
Oct	963,261	5.3%	1,051,043	9.1%	1,075,341	2.3%	1,049,515	-2.4%
Nov	809,684	12.1%	887,047	9.6%	870,754	-1.8%	769,967	-11.6%
Dec	671,965	16.8%	669,540	-0.4%	669,133	-0.1%		
Jan	661,507	9.1%	677,428	2.4%	691,651	2.1%		
Feb	738,532	5.6%	758,041	2.6%	811,319	7.0%		
Mar	855,597	-1.9%	953,927	11.5%	1,000,573	4.9%		
April	1,000,696	6.3%	1,046,772	4.6%	958,282	-8.5%		
May	1,015,349	1.4%	1,052,582	3.7%	1,118,049	6.2%		
June	1,223,974	5.7%	1,249,817	2.1%	1,262,909	1.0%		
FY Total	\$ 12,032,372	8.6%	\$ 12,691,167	5.5%	\$ 12,935,553	1.9%	\$ 6,468,554	0.7%
Budget	\$ 11,504,200		\$ 12,630,600		\$ 13,581,500		\$ 13,334,000	3.1%

Includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B).

Sales Tax Down 0.6%. Sales tax revenue for the quarter ended September 30th was down 0.6%, after a decline of 7.4% for the previous quarter (ended June 30th). The City of Santa Barbara fared much better than the Southern California region as a whole, which saw an average decline of 3.9%. Statewide, sales tax for the quarter was down 3.2%.

Fire Department

Ongoing Activities Related to the Tea Fire. Santa Barbara has now had two significant rain systems come through the area since the Tea Fire, threatening the burn area with flooding. Luckily, the storm systems were not as severe as anticipated and there was minimal damage. Before the first storm the week of Thanksgiving, fire crews assisted filling sandbags, and Public Works crews cleared drainages. The Office of Emergency Services and the County issued Flood Watches and Warnings, and City staff walked the eastside neighborhoods to advise the residents of potential flooding from Sycamore Creek. The Office of Emergency Services will continue to closely monitor any future storms for the risk of flooding. A "Tea Fire Flood Response Plan" has been prepared and distributed to public safety and public works staff, which outlines the specific activities and "trigger points" for an emergency response, should a significant winter storm enter the South Coast. The maps that were developed for this plan have been programmed into the County's Reverse 9-1-1 system, should a future evacuation order for the Sycamore Canyon area become necessary.

Library Department

Santa Barbara Reads. For the third year, the Santa Barbara Public Library System is partnering with the UCSB Campus in the community-wide reading program, *UCSB Reads/Santa Barbara Reads*. The book chosen for discussion, *Ethics for the New Millennium* by the Dalai Lama, shows that we can each be happier by treating one another ethically and respectfully.

Two hundred copies of the book will be circulated in the public libraries in January. Ten copies of the book in Spanish will also be circulated. Panel discussions will be held in the public library branches in March 2009, in which faculty members and community experts will explore the ethics theme and the book. UCSB will kick off their part of the program on January 15th and give away 2,000 copies of the book to their students.

Foundation Center Database Training. Twenty-three members of nonprofit organizations attended a hands-on workshop at the Central Library on December 30th to learn how to search the Library's Foundation Center on-line database. The Library is a regional Foundation Center Collection, and receives a discount on the annual subscription to the database, which may be used from public computers at the Central Library.

SCORE Workshop for Small Businesses. The Senior Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) is partnering with the Library to offer a workshop on January 22nd called *Secrets of Success (SOS) for Small Businesses in a Down Economy*. The keynote speaker will be Paul Orfalea, founder of Kinko's. SCORE volunteers will follow with a program tailored to businesses that are trying to keep afloat during the current economic recession. The Central Library has developed a collection of books and other resources for small businesses.

Junior League Supports Library Project. The Library and the Junior League of Santa Barbara are partnering to raise funds to create a new Children's Library at the Central Library. Library staff discussed the project and the new space that will be created for Santa Barbara's youth in the December edition of *Inside Santa Barbara* on Channel 18. For more information about the Children's Library project, contact Sarah Rosenblum at 568-5606.

Parks and Recreation Department

Help Everything Come Up Roses. The Parks and Recreation Department and the Rose Society are requesting volunteers to help prune the popular A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden on Saturday, January 10th starting at 9 a.m. If it rains on January 10th, the event will be held on January 17th. The garden contains an accredited, All-American Rose selection of over 1,500 plants adjacent to the Santa Barbara Mission and is nourished throughout the year by Rose Society members, rose garden volunteers and Parks Division staff. The annual pruning is necessary to insure abundant blooms for the spring and summer months and requires a large hands-on effort using volunteers from the community. No experience is necessary as rosarians will be on hand to demonstrate proper rose pruning techniques. It is recommended that volunteers wear work clothes, including long pants and long sleeves, eye protection such as safety glasses, leather gloves, and bring hand pruners, a leaf rake and a lopper. Refreshments will be provided by the Santa Barbara Rose Garden Society. For more information, please call the City Parks and Recreation Department at 564-5433.

Teens Help Those in Need. Teens from several youth-serving community agencies collected and delivered over 300 warm coats and jackets to the Casa Esperanza Homeless Shelter, along with 500 donated food items. This food and coat drive was led by Teen Programs in partnership with Girls Empowerment, the Santa Barbara Youth Council, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (ADAP) Teen Coalition, La Cuesta High School, Future Leaders of America, City at Peace, the Twelve35 Teen Center, and Santa Barbara High School's Don Riderz.

Carrillo Recreation Center Renovation Moves Forward. The Rehabilitation of the Carrillo Recreation Center achieved a milestone on November 26th when final approval was received from the Historic Landmarks Commission. The renovation will address structural upgrades for improved safety, accessibility improvements to meet ADA requirements, and replacement of outdated mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems. The City is attempting to attain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for this project by improving efficiency and utilizing green building materials. Kruger Bensen Ziemer Architects was able to create a design that added an elevator without any external modifications to this historic structure. Additional permitting is in process and construction may begin as early as May 2009 for this community center that serves over 100,000 people per year.

Police Department

Police Activities League (PAL) in the Holiday Spirit. On December 7th, the Police Activities League Youth Leadership Group held a car wash at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on 227 North Nopal Street and raised about \$1,800. The purpose was to raise funds for PAL's upcoming Family Holiday Dinner. On December 17th, PAL held its annual Family Holiday Dinner at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion. Most of the 176 guests were children and enjoyed dinner and a good time. After dinner, Santa arrived and gave away brand new bikes to smiling kids.

Stuff the Bus. On December 17th, the Santa Barbara Police Department Beat Coordinators participated in the 4th Annual Peoples Self-Help Housing "Stuff the Bus" event. This event is a toy drive which involves Santa riding down State Street on an MTD bus. The bus stopped at several locations on State Street and collected gifts. The Beat Coordinators also collected gifts at the police station and donated them to this event. After all gifts were collected, the bus, escorted by the Beat Coordinators in the 1957 Chevy Police Car, then went to the Ladera Apartments at 322 Ladera Street, where the gifts were wrapped and distributed by volunteers.

DARE Graduation. The Santa Barbara Police Department invites everyone to its upcoming Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Graduation which will be held on January 14th at the Arlington Theatre, 1317 State Street, at 9:30 a.m. Over 300 students from Cleveland, Franklin, Monroe, Monte Vista, Hope, and El Montecito Elementary Schools will be graduating on this day, along with students from the Santa Barbara Community Academy. Come and help celebrate their success.

Public Works Department

Public Works Continues to Provide Sandbags for Flood Preparation. The Public Works Department continues to offer sandbags to City residents to prepare for flooding. The Sandbag Distribution Station is located at the City of Santa Barbara's Corporate Annex Yard, 401 E. Yanonali Street and will be opened when a "Flood Watch" is issued by National Weather Service and confirmed by City of Santa Barbara Public Works Officials. Residents must fill sandbags and are advised to bring gloves. There is a twenty (20) sandbag limit per trip.

The City's sand bag distribution program is designed to assist property owners in the protection of private property during emergency conditions. In non-emergency situations, sandbags can be

obtained from local home improvement or building supply stores. Residents are reminded that effective protection of private property begins prior to storm events with regular preventive maintenance of drainage facilities on your property.

Flooding, Mudslides in the Tea Fire Area Minimal with Light Rains. Gentle rain storms have passed through the Santa Barbara area since the Tea Fire, producing less intense rainfall than predicted by the National Weather Service. Significant mudslides and flooding have been avoided thus far during the rainy season. One mudslide occurred on Mountain Drive on December 15th and was cleared by the City Streets crews before 9:00 am following the overnight storm. The Public Work Streets crews are monitoring roads in the burn area as storm pass through the area and are responding as necessary to keep the roads clear and safe for travel.

Waterfront Department

No Fee Increase for 2009 Annual Parking Permits Annual Waterfront Parking Permits are now available for purchase. The permit prices remain the same as last year's prices. General permits cost \$95 and Slip holder permits (one per slip) cost \$70. Permits went on sale December 1st and are valid from the date of purchase through December 31, 2009. Residents and marina slip holders are encouraged to purchase their 2009 permit early for a whole year of uninterrupted, economical parking. General permits are available at all Waterfront parking kiosks except Stearns Wharf, or at the Harbormaster's Office. Slip holder permits may only be purchased at the Harbor Patrol Office. For more information, call 897-1965.

Breakwater Cap Repair Project. Built between 1927 and 1930 with rock quarried from Santa Cruz Island, the Santa Barbara Breakwater was capped in the 1950's by adding a walkway and parapet wall, providing increased storm protection and a place for public sightseeing. The breakwater cap was first replaced in the 1970s. Due to natural erosion, the cap is being replaced again in four phases. The first two phases were completed in 2004 and 2007, respectively. Phase three construction will begin in March 2009 and last two to three months at a cost of \$570,000. Lash Construction Company, the low bidder on the project, will replace 432 lineal feet of breakwater cap from the easterly section of the breakwater to the Sandspit. The cap will be replaced in-kind with the exception of the parapet wall, which will be built seven inches higher than the existing wall, to meet current building code requirements. The breakwater will be open to the public up to the construction site.

Mobile Sewage Pumpout First of Its Kind for Santa Barbara Harbor. A mobile sewage pumpout service hit the water on December 8th, augmenting five dockside pumpout stations. A local rigging business, *Mobius Rigging Services*, restored and refitted an old Boston Whaler for the job, adding a pump system and a 150-gallon holding tank. Pumpout services, including options for a basic pumpout, a pumpout with a fresh-water holding-tank rinse, and/or treatment with odor-killing chemicals are available Mondays or by appointment during an emergency. To learn more about the mobile pumpout or to schedule service, contact Mobiusrigging@gmail.com or call 708-2427.

Stand-up Paddleboards Now Classified as Vessels. From Oregon to Mexico, the sport of standup paddling has grown considerably over the past few years. Responding to a request for legal interpretation, the United States Coast Guard recently classified "paddleboards,"

meaning stand-up paddleboards, as “vessels.” The newly classified vessels must comply with federal navigation rules and “carriage” requirements when operated beyond the narrow limits of a swimming, surfing or bathing area. That means stand-up paddlers need a USCG-approved life jacket (Personal Flotation Device—PFD) for each person, a sound signaling device (whistle), visual distress signals and navigation lights (flashlight). The same requirements apply to kayaks and other manually propelled vessels of similar size. Stand-up paddleboards are exempt from hull identification number and registration requirements. Harbor Patrol will continue to educate and encourage stand-up paddlers to comply with these new rules.